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Hongkong, 31st October, 1902. a49

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ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

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## The Daily Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 11, DEB VEX ROAD, CH.  
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

HONGKONG, 7th JULY, 1904.

Yesterday's telegrams tell of the reopening of negotiations with the Tibetans. The warriors of "the holy war"—the fierce, ignorant, and resentful inhabitants of the Himalayan slopes—are said to have suddenly realised the irresistible nature of the British advance, and to have expressed their desire to negotiate with the unwelcome invaders of their upstanding pastures. All humane folk would like to know of a cessation of the dreadful slaughter that has seemed necessary to persuade the Tibetans that the British Mission was seeking admittance on real business; but some reservations appear to be necessary. Do the Tibetans really understand that the intentions of the Great White Chief are honourable; that his claims are just; and his power great enough to enforce them? Do they, in short, now understand the real position of affairs; or are they in possession of some gossip of an Asian race defeating a White in the further East; and, if so, are they (as some of the Indian papers have suggested) misled into thinking that the conquerors of Ind may be set at naught by them that dwell on the roof of Ind? If by any chance they have got their relative position into proper focus, it is likely that they will enter into these later negotiations with *bona fide* intent? For answer, it is surely proper to turn to the reports and comments of our own British representatives and pioneers, the men who have been and seen. The Blue Book published earlier in the present year offers overwhelming evidence against the suggestion that a treaty with unconquered Tibet could be of any durable value. Despite the voice of one missionary crying in the wilderness, that the Tibetans are a peaceful, kindly folk, we hearken to those cool, incisive official indictments of the devotees of

Dalai as "jealous," "stupid," "treacherous," "obstinate" men, not unnotably objecting to trespassers upon their age-old privacy, and determined, so far as in them lies, to do all in their power to repel the invader. They speak of it as a "holy war"; and what wars in history so long as those with priests beneath the banners? Fortunately, with the change of times, methods have changed, if manners have not. The men who are opening the way for policing these troublous mountain fastnesses into some semblance of good order for the peaceful trader in their ways, are equipped with better machinery than were their ancestors who fought for the Holy Grail. On the other hand, the Tibetans, spite of the advice and assistance of others who were perhaps better left unnamed, do not seem to have so much as approached the fighting weight of the old-time Saracen. They have, however, all the pugnacity that an Asian is capable of, and if the correspondents are to be credited, their doggedness is the doggedness of despair—always a dangerous sort. It is nonsense to suppose for one moment that they have any of that perhaps foolish quality which impels some few of the Powers to keep treaties. To say that their word is as good as their bond is no compliment to the said bond. They are, it is not to be forgotten, treaty breakers already. That is how our Mission happens to be where it is; that is what, as Peterkin would say, they are killing each other for. The Chinese have not always enjoyed their present reputation for diplomatic probity; and the Chinese officials concerned in the recent negotiations speak of the Tibetans as "impossibles," inexpressibly stupid, and much attached to the argument known as the *regressus ad infinitum*. Under such circumstances, which it is really unnecessary to dwell upon at greater length, can any trust be put in negotiations which are not as between conqueror and conquered? So far, even with our small Mission, which was by no means meant to be a military expeditionary force, we have conquered to the extent of one or two massacres, which have hardly conveyed the lesson they would have done in the case of a less pachydermatous people. It is possible, it may even be said probable, that this sudden desire for *pari passu* is prompted by the necessity for a respite. It was admitted that if we had gone back before Gyantse, it would have cost us much more on a second advance. Now that blood has been spilt, and British lives lost, it were a pity to let sentiment stand in the way of "making a good job of it." The trouble would only be scotched by dilly-dallying with understrappers of the Lamas at this juncture. The Government having decided to push on to Lhasa, will not be easily persuaded to abandon their purpose. It is to be hoped not, anyway; and the less weeping there is now, in the Press, about the poor, dear, slaughtered heathen, the less occasion for real weeping will there be in the future. It is not improbable, after all, that before these lines have publicity, the news of the parley may be supplemented by news of more fighting. The true position of the enemy is suggested by their condescension in offering to "consider the matter" of abandoning their forts, after their delegates had sued for peace.

Cable communication with Foochow is again interrupted.

The Hon. Robert Shevan returned to Hongkong by the *Empress of Japan*.

Only one case of plague was recorded for the twenty-four hours ending at noon yesterday.

Volunteers are reported to be coming forward in large numbers for the Australian naval reserve.

A German lawyer has been retained by the Board of Punishments to draw up the new code of Penal Laws for the Chinese.

The s.s. *M. Struve* arrived from Tamsui yesterday with a Japanese theatrical company on board. It is understood that they are to play at Hongkong.

On Tuesday night several houses in the Conduit Road, we hear, were entered by burglars. Evidently a gang was operating in the neighbourhood. Several articles were missing from the houses in question yesterday morning, but we have not heard of any substantial individual loss.

The *Sinclair* states that Viceroy Tsun Chun-huen, of the Two Kwang provinces, has received instructions from the Throne to arrange without delay the opening of the port of Huichoufu (Cantonese: Waichow) on the Kuangtung coast, to international commerce. It is also stated in a translation by the N.C. *Daily News* that the above step was taken at the instance of the British Minister at Peking, who protested against the delay in opening that new treaty port.

The cruiser *Leviathan* established a new coaling record at Hongkong by shipping 2,200 tons in seven hours, an average of over 314 tons an hour.

Sir Frederick Treves, the famous English surgeon, who recently passed through Hongkong, was the recipient of an honorary degree at the commencement exercises of the University of Pennsylvania on the 13th ult.

In reply to a rumour being freely circulated in St. Petersburg that the United States are considering the possibility of ceding the Philippines to Japan under certain conditions, the officials of the State Department at Washington declare there is no basis of any kind for the report.

Mrs. Clemens, wife of "Mark Twain," died at Florence on the 5th ult. Before her marriage in 1870, she was Miss Olivia Langdon, and was born at Elmira, New Jersey. Her daughter, Miss Clara Clemens, is a singer of remarkable promise.

Captain Moore, of the Indian Medical Service, has died at Bombay of plague, contracted while attending patients suffering from the disease. Two doctors and two nurses have now sacrificed their lives in fighting against plague in the city.

By kind permission of Lieut. Col. Iremonger and officers, the Band of the 93rd Burma Infantry will play the following programme at the Kowloon Hotel this evening:—  
March: "The Stars and Stripes for Ever." Sousa.  
"Swing." "Havatha."  
Selection: "The Little Maidens." Rabens.  
Song: "Au der Wasser." Pressel.  
Selection: "The Ball of New York." Korker.  
Waltz: "A Greek Slave." Sidney Jones.  
Cale: "Walk." "Jolly Negroes." Beggar.

An international walking match was being arranged at Shanghai for the first Sunday in July. The N.C. *Daily News* last to hand gives some particulars. Teams of nine (?) nationalities have entered, each team including four representatives. The course is about ten miles long. "Three well-known bank-managers" had presented cups as prizes. Later information arriving by the German steamer *Seydlitz* was to the effect that some of the arrangements had fallen through, and that in consequence the novel contest was to lose its international character.

A gentleman named J. Wheeler, writing from Kashan to the *North China Daily News* on the 29th June, attaches great significance to an assault committed upon himself and a friend by a Chinese bullock drover. Mr. Wheeler received one blow on the back, from a "willow," and his friend was "struck lightly." Mr. Wheeler seems to think that this affair was due to an anti-foreign feeling bred of the war, and adds: "My back is in a fearful state." We are sorry about his back, and especially about his nerves, which seem to have suffered still more.

The total rainfall for the month of June, according to observations taken at the Hongkong Observatory, was 19.64 inches. In the same month last year it was 25.23 inches. The greatest fall in any one day during June was 5.19 inches, on the 29th. Only six days in the month did the rainfall exceed one inch. Since the end of June rain has fallen on two days only, the records showing 1.01 in. on the 1st inst. and 1.55 in. on the 2nd inst. For the six months ended June 30th this year the rainfall aggregated 31.685 in., as compared with 48.150 in. in the corresponding period of last year.

The movement of tea between China and Russia has been much interfered with by the military demands upon the Trans-Siberian Railway and by the loss of the port of Dalny. It has been found necessary to have recourse to the old caravan route from Tientsin and Peking to Irkutsk and thence to Europe. The tea now goes by sea to Tientsin and thence by camels or by any other available means of conveyance. Insurances, the *London Times* says, have been placed on the consignments covering all risks, including capture, loss by theft, &c., right through to Moscow and St. Petersburg. The premium charged is 5 guineas per cent. The ordinary peace rate on tea from China to Moscow was only 12s. 6d. per cent.

The war is being carried on in little-known regions, and the names of places mentioned in telegrams and in the letters of correspondents are variously expressed on paper by writers to whom they represent nothing but sounds imperfectly heard. An explanation of their hard syllables not only gives an interest to them, but serves to promote a uniformity of spelling. Professor Douglas in a letter to the *Times* instances a few. "Following in the wake of the Japanese (he says) we find that in passing into Manchuria they crossed the Yalu. The meaning of the word Yalu is 'Duck-reen,' and this name may possibly have been given to the stream from the number of ducks on its surface, or from some peculiarity in the colour of its waters. From this point the Japanese marched on to, and took possession of, Chin-lien-sheng, 'the nine-linked city,' which has been variously written Kin-lien-cheng, and by the Russians Ta-ren-cheng. The next town that was occupied was Feng-hwangcheng, or 'the city of male and female Phoenixes.' This has usually appeared in the newspapers as Feng-hwang-chenn. Later we are told that Japanese scouts have been seen on the Mo-tien-ling, or 'the sky-scrapping' range,' so named from the height of its peaks. It is probable that if the Japanese succeed in crossing this range they will advance on Haich'eng, 'the ocean city,' and may eventually reach Liao-yang ch'eng, which would appear to mean 'the city on the distant southern slopes.'

## TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.]

LONDON, 6th July.  
Hostilities have been resumed in Tibet.

[REUTERS' SERVICE.]

### THE TIBET MISSION.

LONDON, 4th July.  
Col. Younghusband has received the peace delegates at Gyantse. He insisted on the Tibetans evacuating their forts by Tuesday. The delegates replied that they would consider the matter.

### THE LOSS OF THE "NORGE."

LONDON, 4th July.  
The Danish steamer *Norge* with 700 Scandinavian emigrants and 80 crew on board, bound to New York from Copenhagen, struck on the Rockell reef 200 miles to the West of the Hebrides, on the 19th June. Only 27 were saved. The *Norge* filled rapidly; eight boats were launched; three were smashed in launching and of the remaining five filled with passengers, only two got away; a heavy sea was running. The survivors were picked up and brought to Grimsby by a steam-trawler.

[FROM BANGKOK PAPERS.]

### THE TIBET EXPEDITION.

SIMLA, June 21.  
There are now nearly three thousand men, excluding followers, in Tibet, a sufficiently strong British force to break down any opposition the Tibetans are likely to be able to offer. Colonel Brauer has under him at Gyantse some seven hundred men, namely, three sections of the Norfolk Infantry, a machine-gun detachment of the Norfolk Regiment, half a company of the Bengal Sappers, two seven-pounder guns belonging to the 8th Gurkhas, two companies of the 32nd Pioneers, two companies of the 8th Gurkhas, and two ten-pounder British mountain guns. Marching up under General Macdonald, and likely to reach Gyantse by the end of the present week, are some twelve hundred men, the force including four more ten-pounder British mountain guns, and two seven-pounders, four companies of the Royal Fusiliers, one company of the 8th Gurkhas, two companies of the 32nd Pioneers, and four companies of the 40th Pathans. In addition to these there are some eight hundred men guarding the lines of communication between Chumbi and Gyantse, while in India the 19th and 33rd Punjab Infantry, two sections of the Abbottabad Battery, and one company of Sappers are being held in readiness to proceed to Tibet if required.

### HONGKONG'S WATER SUPPLY.

At present all the water tanks excepting that at Tai Tam, are overflowing. Water at the Tai Tam Reservoir is about seven feet from the top, having thus added about nine feet since the end of June.

The Water Return, giving the level and storage of water in the reservoirs on the 1st instant, and a comparison with the situation at corresponding date of last year, shows the following figures:—

	1903.	1904.
Tytan	387,320,000	253,340,000
Bywash	5,324,000	5,324,000
Pokfulam	68,000,000	68,000,000
Wongneicheong	29,728,000	30,459,000
Total	480,372,000	357,133,000

The consumption of water in the City of Victoria and the Hill District during the month of June was 88,893,000 gallons as compared with 130,139,000 during the corresponding period of last year. This may find explanation in the fact that last year we were on full supply; this year, to the 4th inst., the supply has been intermittent. The estimated population this year is 224,100, against 219,200 last year. These figures give the consumption per head per day at 13.2 gallons against 19.7 gallons during June of 1903. An intermittent supply was in force last month.

The consumption of water at Kowloon during June was 14,418,000 gallons against 13,315,000 gallons last year. The estimated population being 68,300 against 62,450 last year, the consumption per head per day is recorded at 7.1 gallons against 7.1 gallons during June 1903.

The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.

The present prospects of water are improving.

### RACING.

#### THE HONGKONG GYMKHANA MEETING.

The Hongkong Gymkhana Club are making preparations for their next meeting. Though not absolutely settled yet, it is probable that the date fixed upon will be Saturday, the 30th inst. This will be the second meeting of the Club since its inauguration on the 1st March last. It was then suggested to hold races during the off season once a month from April to October, with a possible intermission during July and August. The number of Gymkhana meetings to be held each season shall not exceed five.

#### WEATHER REPORT.

The Hongkong Observatory yesterday issued the following report:—  
On the 6th at 11.40 a.m. the barometer has risen rapidly in the neighbourhood of the Miao Sine, the changes elsewhere are slight. The typhoon is now in the Eastern Sea moving slowly northward.  
Gradients are slight on the China Coast, and light variable winds will prevail in the Formosa Channel and northern part of the China Sea. Further south fresh S.W. monsoon may be expected.  
Forecast:—Light variable winds, fine.

## THE WAR.

[REUTERS' SERVICE.]

### BRITISH SLOOP ORDERED TO NEWCHWANG.

LONDON, 4th July.

Earl Percy in the House of Commons said that H. M. S. *Esperanza* had been ordered to Newchwang.

#### RUSSIA AND INTERVENTION.

The *Novoe Vremya* published the following on 31st May:—"The whole world ardently desires to see our war with the Japanese terminated as soon as possible. Russia alone is capable of judging the opportune moment make peace, which she will not do until her adversaries are unable to harm her. We must and can reject any intervention in our conflict with Japan, inasmuch as it is largely due to the provocation and complicity of a third party. Let no one endeavour to put a premature end to the war."

Of all the countries in the world, the one that stands in utmost need of the fullest knowledge of Japan and the Japanese, at this moment, is undoubtedly Russia. As it happens, however, Russia is the very one, says the *Asahi*, that knows the least in this respect, and the journal is not at all dissatisfied with this anomaly; in fact it would rather consider it a rare piece of good luck. It was this ignorance on Russia's part that brought to her such an unpropitious beginning of hostilities. The evidence of her ignorance is more glaringly reflected in Russia's refusal to consider anything pertaining to intervention. For her rejection in that connection is no doubt meant by her to be one way of intimidating Japan, and that she should think she could frighten us out of our wits in that way shows her utter lack of knowledge as to our national characteristics. If there is any neutral Power contemplating anything like mediation it can be none other than France, Russia's own ally. That Russia would go the length of discountenancing the good intentions, even of her own ally, would indicate that she is not yet awakened from her dream that Japan may still be cowed to submission by mere bluffing. And extremely lucky it is for Japan, concludes the *Asahi*, that while Russia revels in her sweet ignorance, we shall be improving upon every opportunity that may come our way to give her a very rude awakening in the end.—*Japan Times*.

#### PROVISIONS FOR VLADIVOSTOCK.

There was a rumour in circulation in Yokohama on Wednesday night, says the *Yokohama Mail*, that the two former Northern Pacific boats, *Tacoma* and *Olympia*, which were lately sold to a Siberian Company, have reached Vladivostok safely and landed big cargoes of provisions. A further rumour adds that both vessels have been damaged in an explosion.

#### THE YALU VICTORY AND GERMAN INTERVENTION.

Major-General Meckel, formerly military instructor in Japan, received a telegram from Baron Kodama, Chief of the Japanese General Staff, saying that the Yalu victory was won "by officers whom you instructed." Baron Suematsu, writing to the *Times*, explains the motive of the telegram. General Meckel, he says, was in Japan for several years as a military instructor. He was then an officer of the German army, but not a general, and was chiefly engaged in the exposition of the theory of strategy and tactics in our military college. Besides the occasional manoeuvres he often made excursions with a number of the officers to different parts of the country, and made imaginary battles by means of fictitious campaign plans of the opposing armies for the purpose of practising his theory, which benefited our officers very much. Baron Kodama was one of those officers. No doubt he felt, after the battle of the Yalu, special interest in the importance of strategy, and personal recollection of General Meckel's service revived in his mind vividly; hence the telegram.

#### ALLEGED RUSSIAN PROPOSALS TO CHINA.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *London Daily Express* telegraphing on May 29th stated that M. de Lessar, on behalf of the St. Petersburg Government, had informed Prince Ching at Peking that Russia would finally evacuate Newchwang if China would give her formal assent to the concession for the railway, 770 miles long, running from Kalgan across Chinese Mongolia to Kiakhta, eighty miles from Lake Baikal. M. de Lessar further proposed to evacuate Manchuria outright if China would grant Russia a lease for a fixed term of the Ili territory. Prince Ching laid these proposals before the Chinese Government, but had not made an official reply to the Russian Minister. The same correspondent also reported that the Chinese Viceroy, Chang Chi Tung, Wei Kwan Tao, and Shang Kung Pao, the heads of the war party, who recently had a conference at Nanjing, memorialised the Emperor to abandon the policy of neutrality. They urged that all the Chinese treaties with Russia be annulled forthwith, including those of Nerchinsk, Aigun, Peking, and St. Petersburg, the Telegraph and Railway Conventions, and the Indemnity Protocol of 1901.

#### JAPANESE THOROUGHNESS.

The *Yokohama Specie*'s Special Correspondent, who was writing in April from the Japanese headquarters at Chiumpo, said that everything was then in admirable order. He was greatly struck with the attention paid by the Japanese to their horses. He says:—"A horse here is far more valuable than a man; and officers, when talking together, brighten up directly mention is made of these indispensable animals. Hay and straw are unprocureable at Chiumpo for

love or money, everything having been already bought up by the Japanese authorities."

The writer speaks highly of the Japanese officers, and compliments both them and their men on their essentially quiet and modest demeanour. He says, in conclusion:—"Tranquillity, based on assurance and self-confidence, is observable in the whole of this great factory of war at Chiumpo. The buttons for the tailor, the nails for the cobbler, and the fuses for the gunners are there. Every horse has fodder, and every man has rice, beans, and beef. All their faces are red, healthy, and fresh. No jubilation is to be heard in the streets, only soldier-like self-confidence is visible. Thus looks an Army which can only conquer, or fall with honour."

#### THE LATE ADMIRAL MAKAROFF AND PORT ARTHUR.

The Warsaw *Dziennik* has published a number of letters written from Port Arthur by Colonel Agaprieff, who perished in the *Petropavlovsk*. The last of the series contains an interesting account of an attempt made by Admiral Makaroff to prevent the sealing of Port Arthur by Japanese fire-ships. It was decided to sink a number of vessels outside the entrance in an S-shaped line so that while fire-ships would be almost certain to strike and sink, the vessels of the Russian squadron might pass out at need. The plan was, to a certain extent, actually carried into effect. On March 27 (April 9) a steamer called the *Edvard Barry*, purchased from the North-Eastern Steam Navigation Company at a cost of 475,000 roubles (£50,538) was sunk at a spot where one of the Japanese fire-ships had been sunk, and on the following day another steamer called the *Shikita* was sunk near the *Edvard Barry*. It was hoped that these two vessels would be sufficient to prevent any damage from being effected by Japanese fire-ships.

#### LIFE IN HARBIN.

Mr. Charles Hands, the *Daily Mail* correspondent with the Russian Army, writes as follows about Harbin:—

There is some reason to suppose that the people who acquaint the Japanese with every movement and preparation in Harbin are not always Japs disguised, or even the Mongols and Manchus who lounge about the railway station with no sign of intelligence in their expressionless yellow faces, but a good deal of observation in their slanting slits of eyes. There are white men in the town who would do anything for money. Harbin has been largely colonised by the surplus population of the interesting island of Saghalien and other Russian penal settlements. It was a free town at first, in which passports were not demanded, and gentlemen who had contrived to escape from the island, and whose capture was not very anxiously desired so long as the Government allowance for their maintenance continued to be paid, made their way to Harbin and applied themselves to their trades.

It is the worst of bad taste to mention Saghalien in Harbin society, as it is estimated that 75 per cent. of the Russian civil population would be made uncomfortable by any such reference. Nor is the difficult question of the provision of labour for the mines at all a popular subject of discussion. There are said to be no murderers in Harbin than in any other town in the world.

One lady of prominence in commercial circles has three poisoned men to her record—two husbands and a lover—and her present husband received a life sentence also. Every other crime of violence is abundantly represented, and there is no means of making money dishonestly which some Harbin resident would not recognise as his proper *metier*. Before the war brought the protection of the military, murders were of daily occurrence, and no one dreamed of going out without a revolver ready to his hand. During the past winter a jeweller's shop was held up and rifled in the afternoon.

#### A CRIME MAP INSPECTED BY SIR HENRY BLAKE.

After visiting the Buddhist temples in Ura recently with Lady Blake, His Excellency paid an official visit to the Police Station, where he had an ocular demonstration of the crime-map introduced by Hon. Mr. F. R. Ellis, and the only one of its kind kept up-to-date in Ceylon. The map, which is one of the Province, circles off, the *Ceylon Observer* says, every town and village in the province. Within each of these square bits of paper of either blue, yellow, red, green, black, purple, white or brown is ticked thereon, to indicate the nature of the crime of every case in each village (tried in court). A red square within a circle denotes a murder, white grivorous hurt, purple knife and cutting, blue house breaking, yellow cattle stealing, green highway robbery, black rape, brown offences other than the above. On these square bits of coloured paper, another coloured bit of paper is pinned. A blue circle on any of the colours mentioned would denote that the accused in a case of any of the offences named went unpunished in court. A red square on the colours would prove that the offence was not found to have been committed by the accused charged in court, and a green triangle on any of the square colours denotes that the accused was found guilty and punished. Keeping up such a map wants a deal of attention and trouble, and Mr. Hanarajah has a special room where his day is spent getting records of cases in the province from the various courts in the province and tacking on these coloured bits of paper. But the labour is not lost, as anybody looking at the map could lay his finger on the village or town which has the most crime. His Excellency, who was very pleased with the map, prior to leaving the premises wrote as follows in the official book. "Visited the station, which is very neat and tidy. The system of noting crime here appears to be excellent and effective."



## THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC CO. LIMITED.

The report of the board of directors to the fifteenth ordinary yearly meeting of shareholders, to be held at the company's office, No. 4, Queen's Buildings, at 12.30 p.m. on Saturday, 16th July, 1904, is as follows:—

Gentlemen,—Your directors have the pleasure to submit the accompanying statement of the company's accounts for the year ending 30th April, 1904. The balance at credit of profit and loss account is \$93,969.77; after deducting directors' fees (3,000) there remains the sum of \$90,969.77 available for appropriation, and your directors recommend that this be disposed of as follows:—

To pay a dividend of 10 per cent.—  
Say \$1.00 per share on  
30,000 fully paid shares \$30,000.00  
Say 50 cents per share on  
30,000 part paid shares 15,000.00  
\$45,000.00

To write off plant account for depreciation  
4,222.11  
To carry forward to next account  
1,747.06  
\$90,969.77

The manager reports that the number of lamps, fans and motors connected to the company's supply service on the 1st June was equivalent to upwards of 27,500 lamps of 8 candle power. 85 are lamps are maintained by the Company and 12 electric lifts are being operated by the power service. During the year 2 additional boilers have been laid down at the company's works, where provision has also been made for the erection during the summer of an additional 250 K. W. Steam Alternator. It has been found necessary to lay a duplicate cable, as far as the junction of Castle and Robinson Roads, for the lighting service in the upper parts of the City, and this work will shortly be completed.

DIRECTORS.—Mr. G. H. Medhurst and Hon. C. W. Dickson having resigned their seats on their departure from the Colony, Messrs. E. S. Wheeler and W. J. Gresson were invited to fill the vacancies on the board and these appointments require confirmation. In accordance with the articles of association, Hon. Sir C. P. Chater Kt., C.M.G., and Mr. W. J. Gresson retire, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. AUDITORS.—The Accounts have been audited by the Hon. Gershom Stewart and C. W. May, who offer themselves for re-election.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS  
To 30th April, 1904.

Capital	
30,000 shares each \$10 paid up	\$300,000.00
30,000 shares each \$5 paid up	150,000.00
	\$450,000.00
Sundry creditors	4,484.00
Dividends undistributed	6,225.31
Surplus account	1,757.25
Balance of profit and loss account	93,969.77
	\$556,486.33

ASSETS	
Cost of plant, as per last account	\$34,741.11
Less amount provided for depreciation	34,741.11
	\$0.00
Cost of plant, since added	419,222.11
Property, cost of land and buildings as per last account	\$2,311.97
Cost of buildings since added	275.10
	\$2,587.07
Stock of installation material	12,735.77
Stock of stores and tools, &c.	1,039.00
Cost of furniture, as per last account	573.00
Less amount provided for depreciation	473.00
	\$100.00
Cost of furniture since added	292.85
	\$392.85

LIABILITIES	
Insurance, value of unexpired portions of policies	1,200.00
Sundry debtors	17,823.83
Cash with agents	9,697.97
Cash with Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	10,045.16
	\$56,766.96

## WORKING ACCOUNT.

Dr.		
To agency and office expenses	\$ 6.00	
To rent and taxes	5,245.76	
To insurance	3,492.00	
To interest	202.34	
To auditors' fees	200.00	
To bad debts	83.52	
To amount carried to profit and loss account	90,516.77	
	\$101,182.05	
Cr.		
By net profit on working	\$101,182.05	
By scrip and transfer fees	32.00	
	\$101,214.05	

## PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.		
To amount available for appropriation	\$93,969.77	
	\$93,969.77	
Cr.		
By amount of undivided profit, as per last account	\$93,969.77	
By balance of working account brought down	3,153.00	
	\$97,122.77	

## CHEAP CHINA TEA FOR ENGLAND

One effect of the tea tax has been to create a great demand for the cheapest varieties of China tea. In America tea is carefully examined by the Customs authorities, and in addition to being tested for adulteration it must also pass a certain standard of quality. The tea that has failed in the latter examination is now being sent to this country for blending purposes in order to supply the British consumer with a cheap tea. Mr. Stanton, of the well-known firm of Messrs. Gow, Wilson, and Stanton, commenting on this state of affairs, said, "We in this country badly need a quality test for tea. The public may rest assured that all that passes the British Customs is really tea, but some of it is of a very poor quality. A quality examination for tea would benefit our Colonies such as India and Ceylon, for the standard there is considerably higher than in China."

## SUPREME COURT.

Wednesday, 6th July.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUNISH JUDGE.)

## A PAINTER'S CLAIM.

The I-Hop firm, painters, and Chan Wa Lung, building contractor, for \$189.53 in respect of work done and material supplied. Mr. O. D. Thomson, solicitor, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. P. W. Golding, solicitor, for Mr. John Hastings's office, was for the defence.

Mr. Thomson stated that the amount claimed was the amount due on a contract account, the full amount having been \$225. Defendant did not admit several items in the account. The whole of the transactions between the parties were verbal ones, there being no documents at all.

After hearing evidence, His Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiff for \$102.53 with costs.

## PROMISSORY NOTES.

Chiu Wing San and Chiu Man Young for the return of two promissory notes. Mr. Otto Kong Sing, solicitor, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors, for the defendant.

Mr. Kong Sing said that the action was for the return of two documents in Chinese purporting to be promissory notes and which, it was claimed, had been paid off.

Mr. Grist said he appeared, under protest, for the defendant. He objected that the Court had no jurisdiction in this case, because the action did not arise in any way in Hongkong, nor was defendant at the time of the issue of the writ in Hongkong; therefore the Court had no jurisdiction in the matter. Its jurisdiction was confined to actions which arose within the Colony or actions in which the defendants were at the time of the writ within the jurisdiction.

His Lordship:—What about service? Mr. Grist said that service could only be ordered if an action arose within the jurisdiction. The question of jurisdiction was in ordinary cases weighed by appearance in a case, but he appeared under protest.

Mr. Kong Sing argued that it was an action raised in the Colony on a promise specifically given to return these notes to the plaintiff; the promise was given in the Colony, and also the document in writing.

Evidence was called. Plaintiff in the witness-box stated that he was to pay 600 taels on account of these documents. He paid that amount in Hongkong. Defendant promised to return these documents to him when he was in Hongkong, but had not done so.

Cross-examined—The two notes were made in the names of the different people; they were made in his native village of Kowloon, San Tin district, near Canton. Defendant had a business there. Plaintiff had a business in Hongkong. When the settlement took place he paid over 600 taels out of a total of 610 taels payable to defendant.

After other evidence, His Lordship made an adjournment until this forenoon at 10.15 o'clock, when the case for the defence will be heard.

## NAVAL ITEMS.

## A GERMAN NAVY COLLIER.

The German Navy collier *Leviathan* arrived from Shanghai yesterday with naval stores.

## THE "LEVIATHAN".

The cruiser *Leviathan* established a new sailing record at Hongkong by shipping 2,200 tons in seven hours, an average of over 314 tons an hour.

## ARRIVAL OF U.S. WARSHIPS.

The U.S. gunboat *Helena* and the U.S. cruiser *Callao* arrived here presumably for coaling purposes. Both vessels are anchored at the foreign man-of-war anchorage.

## THE FRENCH "SULTAN".

Owing to the fact that the armoured cruiser *Sully*, now in Hongkong, was despatched from France to the Far East before she was ready for the voyage, the engineers and stokers experienced terrible sufferings, especially between Jibuti and Saigon. In the absence of ventilators, says the London *Daily Express*, the heat in the engine-rooms and stokeholds rose to 150 deg. F., and the vessel was almost uninhabitable. Although the engine-room watches were reduced to one hour's duration, the heat was so intense that neither officers nor men could withstand it, and everyone sought a pretext for escaping from doing duty in what was a veritable furnace.

## TESTIMONIAL TO MAJOR WATSON OF NINGPO.

On Saturday, June 25th, an interesting event took place at the residence of Major Watson, the Superintendent of Police of the Ningpo Settlement. A number of the native gentry assembled to present the Major with a testimonial in recognition of his long services in the public interest in the port. The Major has recently completed his seventieth year and has been more than 43 years in China.

The testimonial bears record of the distinguished part which he took in the severe engagements at and around Ningpo at the time of the Taiping Rebellion, and refers to the success with which he has endeavored to preserve the peace of the district during the several crises which have since arisen in China. Reference is also made to the management of the police of the settlement and the leading part which Major Watson has taken in the organization and direction of the five brigades. It concludes with an expression of admiration for his personal gifts and social qualities. The testimonial, finely written in Chinese characters, is handsomely framed in gold, and it was presented with the warmest and heartiest of sincere congratulations. —*Shanghai Mercury*.

## POLICE COURT.

Wednesday, 6th July.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING POLICE MAGISTRATE.)

## FALSE PRETENCES.

The American named Hartman was charged on remand with obtaining money by false pretences from a Chinese shopkeeper carrying on business at No. 208, Queen's Road Central. The defendant was also awaiting his sentence for obtaining \$25 by false pretences from the International Bank where he cashed a fraudulent cheque, saying at the time that the Canton branch of the Bank held \$500 belonging to him.

The Chinese storekeeper gave evidence that on the 19th ult. the defendant came to his shop, and stated that he knew his agent at Suinan; he asked for a loan of \$30. Witness at first refused, but was eventually prevailed upon, the defendant giving him a draft on the Shanghai branch of the International Bank. This paper bore the signature of "Wenzell," which afterwards proved to be a forgery.

The sub-accountant of the International Bank gave evidence that the document produced was not one of the Bank's cheque forms.

The defendant stated that Wenzell had promised to pay the amount for him, but he had gone away. Defendant wept bitterly, begging His Worship to have mercy on him; he had done wrong, certainly, but that was his first offence.

Mr. GomPERTZ turned to the Police Inspector, who had risen to his feet. The Inspector said that on the day the man was arrested he gave an order to Hongkong policeman to deliver 100 claims at Canton. Payment would be given after receipt of the first consignment.

The man was sentenced to six months' imprisonment on the first charge, that of obtaining money from the Chinese storekeeper; and two months' imprisonment for obtaining money by false pretences from the Bank.

## A MACAO LOTTERY-TICKET.

A man was charged with offering for sale a Macao lottery-ticket. The defendant committed the offence at No. 15, Queen's Road Central, and the occupant of that house sent for a police constable.

The defendant was fined \$20 or one month's imprisonment.

## LARCENY AT STONECUTTERS' ISLAND.

A Chinaman was charged with stealing a sheet and a pair of socks, property of the Government, from the military quarters at Stonecutters' Island. He was a workman employed on the Island.

The man was sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

## ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENT.

A Chinaman was charged with embezzlement of \$417. Mr. Otto Kong Sing, solicitor, appeared for the prosecution; while Mr. E. J. Grist, solicitor, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, appeared for the defence.

After the man was charged the case was remanded.

## THE "HEATHBURN" CASE.

The Carpenter of the s.s. *Heathburn* was again charged on remand with attempting to kill a Chinese quartermaster. It is alleged that he shot the man on the morning of the 6th inst., while the steamer was lying at Wharfedale. The quartermaster, it has been stated, relieved another man at the gangway for the midnight watch. The man told him to keep a watch for sampan. A sampan came along and some Japanese female stowaways on board tried to get into her. This he would not allow, but showed them back. He heard the noise of a gun and was shot in the shoulder. The captain and chief mate sent him to hospital. He is now out of danger.

The defendant was committed to take his trial at the next Criminal Sessions.

## A STRANGE AFFAIR.

## MANY CHINESE POISONED.

A mysterious poisoning case, the *Strait Times* says, occurred at Singapore last week which resulted in a number of Chinamen being taken suddenly ill. It appears that a Chinese hawked sold some cakes called "U. Chiur Kway," a crisp cake made of flour, to the occupants of No. 47, Wyang Street. Eleven people in this house partook of the cakes and suddenly became violently ill, with vomiting and severe pains in the stomach. They became alarmed and informed the police. Inspector Howard investigated the affair and succeeded in tracing the hawk to his house at Kampong Malacca, where he had a strange tale to tell. According to the hawk, he was making his cakes in the earlier part of the day when a friend of his, a beggar, came up and offered him a small packet of white powder resembling flour which he said he had found in the street. The hawk declared that he refused to accept the powder, whereupon the beggar threw the packet into the flour the hawk was mixing and went away. The hawk made his cakes and went out into the streets, where he did a good business. The beggar has also been arrested, and it is understood that he admits the hawk's statement. So far the police have been unable to discover the motive for putting poison into the cakes. This morning the hawk and the beggar were brought up at the Police Court and were remanded for a week to enable the police to obtain more information. The eleven Chinese from the house in Wyang Street are still very ill. The worst cases have been removed to the General Hospital. It is supposed that the poison was either strychnine or arsenic. As the hawk sold many cakes in the different streets it is not known how many people besides the eleven have been poisoned.

"Everybody who lives twenty years in London without a bluish on his character goes to heaven without dying," said Mr. W. Crooks, M.P. at the Congregational Union recently.

## OUR RELATIONS WITH GERMANY.

This interesting chapter is taken from an article on our "Political Relations with France and Germany," by Sir Chas. Bruce, G.C.M.G., in the *Empire Review*.

In what way the Anglo-French Convention may affect our relations with Germany is a question of the first importance for the peace of Europe. The Imperial Chancellor has well owned the Convention, declaring that it is in no way directed against other Powers, while it has no more direct effect on the peace of the world, which it is the urgent desire of Germany to maintain. And the Press, with the exception of a few Pan-German organs, admits the declaration of the Chancellor to be a correct diagnosis of public opinion. Nevertheless, Germany is not blind to the position of isolation in which she finds herself, and whatever mistakes the German Press may have made in recent years, the question of the causes that have led up to the isolation of the Empire are now discussed with frank sincerity and calm.

Generally speaking, Germany's isolation is attributed to causes arising out of the triumphs of the Franco-German War, which substituted for an agglomeration of feeble and insignificant states an Imperial Power of the first consequence. The time is well within the memory of men not old when German students used to sing:—

Es kam ein Mann von Oesterreich her  
Für wolle wissen wo Deutschland war?

The establishment of the German Empire was followed by a development of her trade and manufactures, which soon made her a formidable competitor in the commercial world, by the colonial enterprise, by the creation of a powerful Navy and Mercantile Marine, by the Imperial declaration, *Unser Zukunft ist auf dem Wasser*, and by a general desire to "have a finger in every pie" (*den Hais in den Gussen zu stecken*).

There are critics of German policy who find that these things have their roots in national antipathy to Great Britain; but in truth they are inseparable from the rise and development of a great power. There was, no doubt, a time when the Imperial policy of England would have resented the extra-European territorial and commercial expansion of Germany, and the creation of a powerful Navy and Mercantile Marine, without which such an expansion is impossible, but the Anglo-French Agreement, if they have any real value, must be accepted as proof that the policy of Great Britain now admits and favours the expansion of other powers, on parallel lines, which may be determined by negotiation and agreement, a procedure as open to Germany as to France.

With perfect frankness the German Press assigns as further grounds of friction with the Boer in the late war; Germany's action in China and the Venezuelan expedition; and the unjustifiable attacks on England and the English carried on by the German newspapers for a period of years. But it is urged, and I cannot but think with good reason, that these matters, which are past and gone, offer no justification for the exclusion of Germany from friendly relations with England. Similar mistakes might be laid at the door of France, but they have been forgiven and forgotten. And we must remember that whatever may have been the sympathy of Germany with the Boers, and however provocative the language of the German Press, it was the Emperor's hand that prevented European intervention in the South African War.

The present policy of Germany has been stated with dignity by the Imperial Chancellor, and there is no reason to doubt that he represents the general sentiments of the nation. "I believe," he says, "that just now, when a war has broken out in the Far East, the reaction of which cannot yet be estimated, while in the Near East much has still to be cleared up, a policy of deliberate calm and even of reserve is likely best to serve the interests of the Empire."

Germany is too strong not to be able to find allies. Many combinations are within our reach, and if we only keep our swords sharp we have no reason to fear isolation. Some exception has been taken to the last phrase, but it merely reflects the general sentiment of Europe, and it may be added, of the United States. Quite recently President Roosevelt declared that the army and the navy are the sword and buckler which the United States must carry if they desire to do their duty among nations, and not to be simply the China of the western hemisphere. Of Germany may be said what was said of Russia by her ambassador after the Crimean war: "*Elle ne boude pas; elle se recueille*."

Is there then any insuperable difficulty in the way of Germany being included among the nations which, as Lord Lansdowne has suggested, may desire to follow the recent example of Great Britain and France? Is it in vain to hope that history may once more repeat itself, and the remembrance of past conflicts be buried in a friendship based on mutual respect and reciprocal interests?

It must be remembered that the Anglo-French rapprochement commenced very shortly after the period of bitter hostility provoked by the Fashoda incident, during which *pourparlers* had actually been entered upon with a view to a Franco-German rapprochement, limited, it is true, to a common line of action in Colonial enterprises in opposition to Great Britain. A German writer, referring to these *pourparlers*, has suggested that at the time it might have been possible to arrive at a Franco-German entente by a revision of the frontier and exchange of Metz for really extensive concessions in favour of Germany's Colonial expansion. The writer observes that whatever may or may not have been possible in respect of this particular combination, his object is to call

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Hongkong, 10th March, 1904.

## NERNST

NERNST ELECTRIC LIGHT.

BEAUTY OF ILLUMINATION COMBINED WITH GREAT ECONOMY  
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the attention of the German nation to the policy of mutual concession exemplified by the Anglo-French Agreement.

One thing is certain. The isolation of Germany cannot long continue without inconvenience to the peace of Europe; a rapprochement with England, in the way of which there can be no insuperable obstacle, might well smooth the road for a rapprochement with France, and the peace of Europe would be secured. Then—but certainly not till then—the question of reduction of armaments may come within the horizon of practical politics. Lord Lansdowne, in his despatch of April 8th, points out that the movement in favour of a settlement of all differences between Great Britain and France received a powerful impetus from the visit paid to France by his Majesty King Edward VII. and by the return visit of President Loubet. It is not too much to hope that before long a similar and not less powerful impetus may be given to the realisation of Lord Lansdowne's wish that the Anglo-French Agreement may afford a precedent which other nations may follow, and so contribute to the maintenance of international good-will and the preservation of the general peace. Within the last few days we have learnt that the King has accepted an invitation to visit the German Emperor at Kiel, and we may presume that the visit will be returned. Granting that these visits may have no political object, a grateful country cannot be unmindful of all that followed His Majesty's visits to nations of the Latin race, and is permitted to look forward with confidence to an early establishment of friendly relations with Germany, not only without prejudice to our *entente* with France, but with the sympathy and goodwill of all the great powers of the Latin race.

Before bringing these pages to a close I may perhaps be allowed to say a word in justification of my venturing to intrude my opinions on the public discussion of the Anglo-French Agreement. I can only plead that the official position I have for many years held in territories which, though now British possessions, were originally colonies of France, or are geographically and otherwise closely connected with French colonies, has made the relations between Great Britain and France a subject of constant interest and occasional anxiety. The colonies to which I refer have played an important part in the history of the relation of the two countries during the last two centuries, and I am confident that in no part of the Empire have the recent agreements been more cordially welcomed.

## SHIPPING NOTES.

## STEAMER MOVEMENT.

The Indo-China steamer *Amoyang*, from Calcutta and the Straits, left Singapore for this port on the 5th July, at 5 p.m.

## WEATHER AT SEA.

The *Meefoo*, from Shanghai yesterday, reports fine weather. The *Whidney* reports light variable winds and strong S.W. currents. The barometer was very low.

The *Elg* had a fine passage from Hoilo to Hongkong.

The *Thales* report light winds and fine weather between Swatow and Hongkong.

The *Auchenard* had a fine passage between Subang and Hongkong. She experienced moderate winds.

The *Lightning*, from Singapore yesterday, reports fine weather.

The *Thames* reports fine weather between Japan and this port.

The *Isabian*, from San Fernando, P.I., reports light S.W. winds; moderate sea and irregular swell.

## A CAUTIOUS CAPTAIN.

The captain of the German s.s. *Fritz Regent* *Indipol* reports plague at Aden. His steamer called that port in strict quarantine.

## THE "ISABIAN".

The *Isabian*, a little steamer on the Philippine Insular trade, yesterday arrived in ballast from San Fernando, P.I. She has come to Hongkong for repairs.

## STERN-FRAME STARTED.

The s.s. *Sikh* arrived at Hongkong yesterday with a damaged stern-frame. The vessel really is on a voyage from New York to Shanghai with 50,000 cases of kerosene, but Lloyd's agent at Manila ordered the captain to come to Hongkong for repairs. Whether or not the vessel has been ashore is hard to say, yet it seems unlikely that the stern-frame was started in a heavy sea with a racing propeller, in the vessel being pretty deep by load. From a casual visit to the steamer one would think that it was quite capable of proceeding to her destination and there being attended to, and it is therefore not surprising that it is of this way of thinking.

## PIRATES IN THE CHINA SEA.

The captain of the s.s. *Mo Foo*, from Shanghai yesterday, reports having passed three pirate junks off Kungchi Point, about 25 miles from Breaker Point. What grounds the skipper has for believing the junks in question to be pirate craft is hard to say, unless, of course, he passed close enough to them to observe their guns, etc. The story, however, seems quite probable coming, as it does, on top of the report sent in by Capt. Ellis, of the Naval launch *Alexandra*. It might have a good effect if a British man-of-war were sent on a visit to the waters of Nanki Island and Kungchi Point.

A LONG TOW. The Norwegian s.s. *Ela* towed the s.s. *Consales* from Hoilo to Hongkong. The *Consales* has come here for repairs.

MORE COAL. The *Auchenard* arrived from Barry yesterday with 5,200 tons of coal.

THE WAE AND MERCHANT SHIPPING. The Russian steamers owned by the Chinese Eastern Railway Company have been affected more adversely by the war than any other fleet. There were 17 vessels before hostilities began and now, between destruction by their friends and capture by the enemy, ten steamers at least have been lost, possibly more. The Russian, when abandoning Dalny, are reported to have blown up the *Zein*, *Buzia*, and *Yagalon*, and the *Nomai* was destroyed by a mine a few days ago. The last named was a steamer of 2,464 tons, built in 1901, while the three others were under 1,000 tons each. News since the war broke out, has been received of the capture by the Japanese of the *Amur*, *Argun*, *Manchuria*, *Mukden*, *Nomik*, and *Schilka*. Of these the *Argun*, *Manchuria*, and *Mukden* are now employed in the Japanese transport service.



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Hongkong, 8th June, 1904. [149]

NOTICE TO MARINERS,  
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CHINA SEA.

SHANGHAI DISTRICT.

SOUTH CHANNEL ENTRANCE TO  
THE YANGTZE.Intended changes in the position of the  
Gas-Lighted Fairway Bell Buoy.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in  
consequence of changes having taken  
place in the Entrance to the South Channel,  
the Gas-Lighted Fairway Bell Buoy will be  
shifted 1 1/2 miles South of its present position  
on or about the 15th July next.

From the Buoy, the Tungsha Lightship will  
then bear N. 48 W.

Further information can be obtained at the  
Coast Inspector's Office.

All bearings given are Magnetic.

T. J. ELDREDGE,  
Deputy Coast Inspector.

Imperial Maritime Customs,  
Coast Inspector's Office,  
Shanghai, 25th June, 1904. [162]

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Hongkong, 26th June, 1904. [133]

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Hongkong, 29th June, 1904. [1586]

## PARIS LETTER.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

PARIS, 3rd June, 1904.

THE FRENCH DEBUT.

Never were the French more certain of any-  
thing than that of winning the 1904 Derby—  
hence the keen disappointment experienced by  
all classes of Parisians, members of the sporting  
world in particular, at the unexpected defeat of  
M. Edmond Blanc's Government. The wretched  
weather alone was the cause of spoiling both  
horses and men, so that the defeat after all was  
accepted more philosophically than it would  
have been otherwise. Government, the true type  
of an extraordinary horse, had the misfortune  
to be the heaviest in the race, as the course had  
been converted into a veritable mire by the  
severe thunderstorm. He could not help plunging  
up to the hocks in the mud at every stride,  
arriving seventh. Intense interest had been  
manifested for some time in all sporting circles  
in this year's English Derby, the only topic of  
conversation being M. Blanc and the favourite  
Government. Everyone was of the same opinion—  
that Government would carry everything before  
it. Most elaborate preparations had been made  
to send the horse over to Epsom, while thousands  
of well-known French owners, members of the  
French Jockey Club, and numerous friends of  
M. Edmond Blanc, had decided upon coming over  
to England for the express purpose of seeing the  
French favourite winning. Thousands of pounds  
had been sent out of France to English and Dutch  
bookmakers by Frenchmen willing to back their  
representative with the money. So unanimous  
indeed was the betting population, not only in  
Paris, but in other great French centres as well,  
that no French bookmaker would have anything  
to do with the race. The result of the race was  
awaited with breathless silence and interest;  
the very fact that something French had been  
pitted against something foreign sufficed to stir  
patriotic instincts to the depths. Newspaper  
offices in Paris were crowded both inside and  
out, the curious having all their eyes fixed on the  
windows from where the result of the race was  
to be announced. The difference in the face of  
the spectators before the result came, and when  
the defeat of Government was declared, was  
most remarkable; silence of despair succeeded  
enthusiastic cheering. For a while Parisians  
could not understand the meaning of it all; if  
defeated, Government, who carried the hopes and  
the fortunes of France, was not to blame. That  
the magnificent animal had done its best, but  
had been the victim of climatic eccentricities,  
was the conclusion arrived at by nearly everyone  
present. The patriotic belief of Frenchmen in  
their horse had cost them thousands of pounds;  
it does not always pay to be over-optimistic.

M. Edmond Blanc, the owner of Government,  
is too much a man of the world to make a fuss  
in public. He accepted the defeat as a gentle-  
man, attributing the same to the weather, and  
at once gave instructions for his horse to be  
sent back to France, in time for the Grand Prix,  
hoping this time to be more successful. The  
chances of Government winning the Grand Prix  
at Longchamps next Sunday are certainly  
greater, as the climate is more congenial,  
enabling the favourite to show its true form to the  
advent advantage. It does not always pay to be  
the owner of a favourite, so thinks M. Blanc,  
who for weeks has not known what an hour's  
peace or leisure was. Not only has he been the  
recipient of thousands of letters and telegrams  
from interviewers, and from persons anxious to  
see his stables and horses—well worth seeing at  
the best of times—but special correspondents from  
sporting papers in nearly every part of the world  
have communicated with him; he was rung up  
almost every minute of the day by English  
enthusiasts. Parisians contenting themselves  
with waiting outside his mansion in the  
Champs Elysees, and prowling round his train-  
ing quarters at St. Cloud, a pretty suburb situ-  
ated some nine miles outside the capital, in the  
hope of catching hold of him, or getting a  
glimpse of Government. This said, it is easy to  
understand how thankful M. Blanc is, that the  
martyrdom imposed upon him has at last come  
to an end. The defeat of Government is slight  
as compared with the late torture experienced  
by its celebrated owner.

RECKLESS MOTORING.

Can nothing be done to prevent *chasseurs*  
from running down people at will, through pure  
carelessness, and without the slightest con-  
sideration? Apparently not, since the auto-  
mobile nuisance is as great as ever. Excitement  
is to a large extent responsible for the number  
of accidents that occur daily in Paris; some of  
the *chasseurs* whom the police have succeeded  
in arresting have confessed as much—"we lost  
our heads," is their excuse. The Prefect of  
Police is not strict enough; the very fact that  
half the time motor-car people drive as they  
please, and don't care a sou whether they are  
on the right side of the road or not, is dis-  
graceful; so scared have some *chasseurs* become  
in consequence of having been injured them-  
selves, that their faces look really horrible, not  
to say terrifying. The special *brigade de police*  
whose duty it is to keep watch on motor-cars of  
every description, is becoming more and more  
disheartened, so much so that many refuse to  
go in pursuit of a "flyer." What's the good?  
May as well remain standing still as attempt to  
chase an electric cab with no number. Cyclists  
continue to complain about the reckless  
driving of motor-cars, and declare that of the  
two, cycling is more dangerous than walking.  
If only the traffic in Paris could be regulated  
by London policemen, there would certainly be  
fewer victims of automobiles. It is not the lack  
of Parisians to enjoy such a luxury. Not the  
less, the enormous increase in the number of  
accidents, calls for immediate redress; the  
authorities cannot afford to continue reminding  
of citizens' appeals for safety.

PRISON LIBRARIES.

It cannot be said that much attention has  
been given to Prison Libraries in France up  
to the present, despite the fact that as moraliz-  
ing agencies they are unquestionably invaluable.  
The idea in France was made known by  
accident in 1847, when a prisoner was specially  
allowed to have some books, by way of abridging  
his long leisure. On the expiration of his  
term of imprisonment, he sold these books to  
a fellow prisoner, for a small sum; while  
the new proprietor converted them into a  
Circulating Library, for the benefit of his  
countrymen who were delighted to pay the small  
weekly subscription, in order to brighten their  
thoughts. Two years later, in 1849, the Prison  
Commissioners were so well satisfied with the

excellent working of the innovation, that small  
sums of money were voted for the purpose of  
establishing libraries in the nine different prisons  
situated in Paris. A grant of 2,800 francs is  
at present allocated annually towards the  
purchase of suitable books. These volumes are  
supplied by contract, while the inmates are  
entrusted with the binding of the works. The  
number of volumes in a library varies from  
500 to 6,000, according to the importance and  
size of the place of detention. Illustrated books  
are most in request; next come those filled with  
short moral stories, elegant extracts, history,  
and technical subjects. Captain Mayne Reid,  
Julius Verne, Dickens, Cooper, Paul Pavai,  
Henri Conscience, Louis Blanc, Edmond About,  
Madame Maréchal, Mesdames de Sévigné,  
de Witt, et Gouffard are well-known favourite  
authors among French prisoners. As many  
of these in goal are only undergoing preventive  
arrest, they cannot be compelled to work, hence  
are entitled to a supply of books, by way of  
killing *ennui*. In addition to several Greek  
and Latin authors, some very valuable historical  
works are kept, to wit "Les Mémoires de Saint  
Simon." To secure a variety of literature,  
most the tastes and religious inclinations  
of all prisoners, as much as possible, is the  
chief aim of the Prison Commissioners. Some  
special volumes are only granted as a reward  
for good conduct; in many cases, prisoners of  
either sex, unless of irreproachable behaviour  
pending a whole month, will not be supplied  
with books.

The books are changed at least twice a week,  
every Wednesday and Saturday. In each  
volume are blank sheets of paper, whereon  
are recorded the material condition of the book,  
as to wear and tear, and the punishment in  
store for prisoners that wilfully damage the  
volume. On another sheet of paper are to be  
found annotations by the prisoners, as well  
as the number of the book lent to them, as well  
as their opinion respecting magistrates, judges,  
police, and warders. Some of the prisoners  
frequently make suggestions, after reading  
books. All these are carefully collected  
together for future reference. The "librarian"  
is generally a prisoner himself, of good behav-  
iour, and whose literary abilities qualify him for  
such a post of honour. According to the Com-  
missioners, the selection of a "librarian" from  
among the prisoners is a difficult matter; few  
are sufficiently educated, and the "honourable  
position" is not eagerly sought after. As a rule,  
the majority of the detained are contented with  
remaining in their cell, quietly waiting until  
the day of their release arrives, and show no  
inclination to distinguish themselves either as  
monitors or *librarians*. For all that, so im-  
portant a movement as Prison Libraries  
deserves to be encouraged more than it is, not  
only in France, but in every other country as  
well. The idea is really a good one, in every  
sense of the word, and acts as a powerful brake  
on increasing immorality.

FRANCE AND THE VATICAN.

The Vatican conflict is anything but settled,  
nor does anyone know when it is likely to be.  
It is as acutely discussed by all classes as ever  
in a more or less friendly spirit. It was the  
Dreyfus case which set the Republicans so much  
against the Catholic Church; this movement was  
also the cause of the passing of the Congrega-  
tions Law which made things so much more  
bitter; and finally the impossibility of any  
arrangement being made for M. Loubet to meet  
the Pope during his late visit to Rome, on  
account of the anti clerical feeling of a strong  
political party in France. Opinion is general  
as to there being a deal of fighting about  
religious questions in the near future, out of  
which struggle the Catholic party is more likely  
to emerge badly than well. The Socialists  
maintain that all the Papal promises of not  
interfering with France have been broken, that  
times have changed since Napoleon signed the  
Concordat, and that that document must be  
done away with before France can be at peace  
without serious complications, not to say  
grave quarrelling. All efforts made to minimize  
the little trouble between His Holiness  
and the Republic have failed. The origin of  
the present dispute was the violent letter lately  
published, in which the Pope spoke in strong  
terms of the visit of the President to Rome,  
which was evidently considered by the head of  
the Catholic Church as a deliberate insult.  
The recall of the French Ambassador at the  
Vatican, M. Nisard, has added fuel to the fire;  
the Paris journals gave as much publicity to the  
recall as possible, some declaring that the  
recall "had been misinterpreted for a leave of  
absence," thus pouring oil on the troubled waters.  
The Nuncio in Paris, Cardinal Lorenzelli, dis-  
played great tact by refusing to be drawn in,  
ignoring M. Nisard's so-called "recall," he has  
given a fresh proof of his desire to avert friction.

ABSTINENCE AND WINE.

The tendency to use alcohol, *cum-de-vie*, or  
absinthe instead of wine began to manifest itself  
in Paris in 1838. While the consumption of wine  
at that epoch remained almost stationary, that of  
spirits had increased by nearly 7,000 hectolitres  
(22 hectolitres equal one gallon). Since then  
the consumption has continued to grow, so  
much so that today among a large proportion  
of the working-class population of the French  
capital abstinence seems to have altogether taken  
the place of wine. The economical and moral  
as well as the physical effects of this change in  
the habits of Parisians, are very far from  
advantageous. Almost more prominent still,  
however, are the political effects. The life of  
the workmen in the *cabarets* and *cafés* frequented  
by them daily is enervated by the "petits verres"  
that are in constant demand. "The fumes of  
the absinthe produce on the citizens assembled  
in the *cafés* the effect produced upon the Delphic  
sybil by the emanations from the sulphur over  
which her sacred tripod was placed." Under its  
inspiring influence the men who have hitherto  
been unable to regulate their own domestic  
affairs, and to govern their families, are able to  
decide upon all the affairs of the country. The  
free use of absinthe by young and old threatens  
to imperil more and more the existence of  
society in France. *Café* life has next to sub-  
stituted that of the family among the working  
class population of Paris.

A MURDER TRIAL.

The Assize Court of Chambery was crowded  
last Wednesday on the occasion of the first  
day's trial of the woman Giriat and her paramour  
Ressot, accused of the murder and robbery of  
Eugenie Fougere, a professional heavy and  
*demi-mondaine* and her maid at Aix-les-Bains  
last September. Both were found strangled,  
and the jewels, worth several thousands of  
pounds, gone. Giriat, Mlle. Fougere's com-

panion, was also in the villa, gagged and bound.  
The police obtained valuable information which  
led to the discovery of a conspiracy between  
Giriat and two men, Bassott and Lademmann,  
to rob the *demi-mondaine*. The first two  
were arrested, the third committed suicide.  
Bassott, it appears, wrote to Giriat to the  
effect that he would send Lademmann  
down to Aix-les-Bains, on condition that she  
would help him in every way to secure the jewels.  
A description of the murder by Giriat in  
court made one's blood cold. She admitted  
letting in Lademmann, who went straight into  
the maid's room, and as she screamed he strangled  
her. Mlle. Fougere came home two hours later,  
when Giriat retired to rest. Shortly after  
Lademmann entered her bedroom, ordering her  
to get up, and follow him. "Both are  
murdered," he remarked, "and we must escape."  
Giriat was terribly frightened lest he intended  
to strangle her too, but obeyed. Mlle. Fougere's  
companion believed that only robbery was  
intended, and was horror-struck when told the  
truth from the lips of Bassott in Paris, to  
whom she wrote after the terrible deed was com-  
mitted. The trial promises to be a very  
sensational one, and is being followed with keen  
interest.

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That cheerful optimist Dr. Metchnikoff, who  
is still quietly pursuing his studies at the  
Pasteur Institute, is as hopeful as ever of suc-  
ceeding in his great work, that of discovering a  
remedy for old age. "The latter," he declares,  
"is at once premature and too brief. Instead of  
being regarded by us as the term of an existence,  
without sadness, and without infirmities, it  
presents all the characteristics of a veritable  
malady. Its approach, which heralds Death,  
depresses us, for we are the only creatures who  
are warned of Death, and know it is inevitable."  
The doctor's own state of being. "Until he has  
successfully solved this problem, he urges his  
fellow creatures to increase the intensity of the  
essential elements of their organism, beginning  
first of all by enfeebling the action of the harmful  
*Phagocytes*. It is these white globules of  
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too soon and bring on old age."

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